

Seniors League Action

Monday, May 1, 2023

It seemed a little strange today at the Field of Dreams. It started off by someone shouting out to Rick Rubin as he strolled across the parking lot, "Hey, Rick! What are you doing here? It's not Wednesday." Then, the teams started to arrive to prepare for the game. But wait, there are three teams here!

But some investigative reporting got to the bottom of the strangeness. Rick was here because there was a Seniors league on this Monday – the makeup for the rainout game last Wednesday between Corple Corral and Wise Health. And Eagle Eye Care was here not to play ball but to serve up hot dogs to the crowd. And, for some reason, the crowd was by far the largest crowd of the year for a Seniors League game. Was it the weather? Was it because spectators prefer Monday? Was it the hot dogs? Was it because everyone wanted to see Kay and David McKie's young grand babies, McKenna and Ally, 11 mo's and 12 mo's respectively? Whatever the reason, the crowd was great. And thank you, members of Eagle Eye Care.

Umpiring today's game were Coco Ondina behind the plate, Kevin Buckrucker at 1st, and Ken Kamrath at 3rd. In appreciation for their service, the players and fans let these three men go to the front of the hot dog line at the end of the game.

Following Rick up the stairs into the press box were game announcer Randy Matthiessen and scorekeeper Clyde Ziegler. They too, when done with their work following the game, were given cuts in the front of the hot dog line.

Seniors League Commissioner, Debbie Hinson, joined managers Dale Hill (Corple Corral) and John Thompson (Wise Health) for the umpires meeting at HP, then Randy spun the record to play the National Anthem and it was time to play ball.

Sharon Deputy took the mound for the home team Wise Health and her first pitch was a strike to Kelly Wisner. Sharon limited Corple Coral to only one run thanks to three ground ball outs, all 6-3 outs, John Pierini to Henry Moore. In the bottom of the inning, Paul Vargo's first pitch, like his counterpart, was a strike. Robert Cox

hit the next pitch for a double and six singles and one walk later, five run max on the scoreboard. **After one, Wise Health up 5-1.**

In the top of the second, Mike Conley led off for Corple with his first of three base hits. He was the only one to score that inning as John P. again accounted for all three outs – 2 assists and one putout. In the bottom of the inning, Paul V held Wise Health scoreless in the second, recording three ground ball outs, one on a great ‘scoop it’ by first baseman, Peter Day. **After two, Wise Health up 5-2.**

Moving to the 3rd, Corple came alive loading the bases for manager Dale Hill who doubled in two runs. Kelly W. followed with her first of three hits, driving in two more runs for Corple. Then pitcher Sharon Deputy threw a beautiful high floater that caught the back edge of the plate; batter Stan the Man Isbell flashed her a thumbs up acknowledging the great pitch. More Seniors League sportsmanship was on display when Cheryl Soule acknowledged announcer Randy with “you’re sounding good up there”, as she was getting ready for her first at bat. In the bottom of the third a slick 6-4-3 double play initiated by, you guessed it, John P., helped keep Wise Health scoreless again. **After three, Corple Corral up 6-5.**

In the top of the 4th, Mike Conley singled hard up the middle, just missing new pitcher Carl Caruso and the pitcher’s screen. Rocky Dudley hit a shot that John P caught off his shoe tops moving to his right. Then, what followed was a double play you can only see in the Seniors League. This is why fans come to watch us on Wednesday’s (and Monday’s). With Mike C. on 2nd and George Keller, who had singled on 1st, a grounder was hit to Carl on the mound who threw to get Mike C. out at third. The pursuing throw to first gets by first baseman, Greg Laffey, who retrieves it, fires home and nips George Keller at the plate trying to score from 1st – a 1-5-3-2 double play; no runs scored. (See today’s trivia question)

Seizing the momentum and excitement generated by their defense, Wise Health regained the lead, scoring 4 runs in the bottom of the 4th. Manager John Thompson hit a 2R home run. Then Carl hit a scorcher for a double that hit the 3rd base bag, and scored on a base hit by Rich Werstein. Sharon then hit a grounder up the middle, speared *bare handed* by John Harnly who flipped to 2nd to nab Rich. Great play, John. **After four, Wise Health up 9-6.**

Do you remember the trivia question posted a couple of weeks ago as to how a batter can hit a home run yet never touch the plate? Well, it happened today.

Pete Day hit a gapper to deep center field. Kelly W, running for Pete, made it all the way around to score. A home run for Peter; a run scored for Kelly. Later in that inning, for his second consecutive time at-bat, Dale Hill comes to bat with the bases loaded. And, for the second consecutive time, he hits a 2 RBI double. All in all, only six batters came to the plate for Corple, and the first five scored, well sorta; Peter didn't score, Kelly W. did. And, to add a little uniqueness, the last run batted in was by the sixth batter of the inning, Kelly W. who scored the first run of the inning. If you are having trouble following all of this, try keeping the scorebook. 😊 .

Not fazed at all by the going on's in the top of the inning, Wise Health came back with three runs of their own to regain the lead. Kelly led off with a single. No, not that Kelly. This was Kelly Petre getting his 3rd of the game. After a line drive out and a major league pop-up out by Ron Schwertner, base hits by Greg L., Myron McKinney, John T, and Carl C, produced the three runs. **After five, Wise Health up 13-12.** A barn burner for sure.

It was time for the buffet inning. Coincidentally, the hot dogs were now being served to the spectators. Stepping to the plate, with Corple needing only 1 run to tie, and 2 to go ahead, announcer Randy plays "Don't Stop Believing" by Journey. Well believe this: Corple Coral scores 13 runs. Yes, that is not a typo – 13 runs. A Seniors League record for most runs scored in one inning. May never be beat. 13 hits scored those 13 runs including yet another bases loaded, 2 RBI hit, by Dale. Might have been more if John P. didn't snag that liner of the bat of Scott Wilson to end the inning.

Trailing by 12 runs going into their last bats, many teams would say "the heck with it, let's go get a hot dog." Not Wise Health. They scored four, the last three coming on a bases clearing triple by Ron S. But, they could muster up no more.

Final Score: Corple Corral 24, Wise Health 16.

What a game! what a day!

Trivia Question:

Looking back at the 1-5-3-2 double play that ended the top of the fourth inning, the scorebook keeper recorded the second out of the inning as a 1-5 putout and the third out of the inning as a 1-5-3-2 putout. How many assists does the pitcher (position #1) get credited for on the play.